

Office Of Consumer Affairs

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Keeping Consumer Interests at the Forefront

The State of Maine is one of 30 states with a consumer affairs office. The goal of the office is to provide expertise and technical support to the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services (BDS) concerning consumer issues and involvement. It also provides networking for the Department with other states initiatives and activities concerning consumer initiatives and alternatives to traditional mental health services.

The Office of Consumer Affairs is staffed with three Regional Consumer Affairs Specialists, located in Portland, Augusta and Bangor who provide a variety of important services including:

- Technical support and consultation to a federally-funded initiative forming a statewide network of mental health consumer/survivor/ex-patients, the Advocacy Initiative Network of Maine (AIN). This organization is working to connect recipients

of services with local, state and national information and efforts concerning systems improvement through leadership training, communications and activities.

- Collaboration and technical assistance to a statewide group comprised of members from twelve psychosocial clubs throughout Maine to achieve independence and offer models of consumer-run services.
- Collaboration and consultation with workgroups developing peer-support initiatives. In the coming year, the Office of Consumer Affairs will focus attention on the continued development of peer support activities and will increase efforts to establish better connections among various consumer organizations.

For more information visit:
www.state.me.us/bds/



State of Maine
Department of Behavioral
and Developmental Services

Lynn F. Duby, Commissioner

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